

# OLD TIMER TALKS ABOUT CHOW CALLS HUGE FOOD FACTORY MEN FED BY MACHINERY

By ANANIAS FIBB

Old timer leaned back in his chair and sighed contentedly. He had spent a hot eight hours on the chow line, and accepted his lot with a good grace. To this old timer, whose work had taken him to the front lines of the earth and the front lines of the sky, places not listed as continental breakfast meant something more than breaking bread. Gentlemanly starting with a large bowl of soup, generously augmented with crackers, then swinging triple helping of roast beef, mountains of gravy-covered potatoes, and a few dishes of onions, peas, turnips, beans, and other vegetables; then these morsels off with two slices of pie and two or three cups of java, according to his taste.

**It Takes Money**

Old timer could stand the financial pressure of putting all of this chow in front of the old timer and his family light his pipe, you were becoming a one-man audience. The veracity of the old timer's story depended upon the old timer's story with the meal that had been prepared.

**Workers Champions**

Old timer may be bigger and more powerful than the Kansas harvest men has never been my misadventure pitchforks with these men. I don't know. But it is a long time, after years on the rig, it comes to catch-as-catch-can wrestling the oil worker champion's belt.

**Large Food Shack**

Old timer forget the chow camps of the old days in Mexico. He went to the biggest camps ever to the Goddess of Gulp. The Petroleum corporation but finally forsakes the old and its help and pays the old instead, finding the latter a paper.

**How arena is located on a tract.** The kitchen is in a food plant many thousands of square feet. The tables are laid out on the sides of the kitchen, like a circus. Six hundred cooks and mechanics is employed in the kitchen.

**Every of ranges is fed with gas.** The stokers and burns crude oil. The output of four 20,000-barrel ranges required to keep the ranges hot.

**Breakfast, for example.** The old timer for oatmeal, beefsteak, and coffee.

**Oatmeal Cars.** The company builds a special track and a factory near the chow line. At night long a series of cars, each with an oatmeal in coal cars and into vats which feed to the chow line. These pots has spigots on them which is opened when the chow is well cooked. Dishes are automatically, and then are the belts to the tables in the kitchen. The boys grab off the chow as they come by.

**Beefsteak Hooks**

The company maintains its own chow line. The beef is slaughtered and cut up by a special corps of men.

of butchers. Hunks of steak is fastened to hooks which hang down on a moving chain. The chain passes by cogs through the steak furnace. The movement of the chain is automatically timed to the heat of the fires. When the fires is very hot the chain moves fast, when not so hot the chain moves slow. When the steaks, dangled to the hooks, come out from the furnace they are nicely barbecued and the chains pass out, carrying the steaks over the heads but within the reach of the lads seated at the tables. The boys pick 'em off as they come by and the empty hooks return to the butcher department for a new load.

**Bombs on Eggs**

"Eggs is generally scrambled. Thousands of dozens of nourishing hen fruit arrives in overhead baskets at 5:47 each morning. These baskets is made special out of wire. The mesh is too small for an egg to fall through. To crush the eggs in the basket a novel arrangement is made. Aviators pass overhead and drop bombs into the baskets, crushing the eggs, and the whites and yolks drops out of the baskets into the scrambling pans, where Mexican girls is employed with long forks to pick out the small pieces of shell that come down with the food portions. Rotary forks, operated by machinery, moves about in the pans at 3,000 revolutions per minute, scrambling the eggs. When a panful is ready for the boys, iron plates revolving downward on a machine which closely resembles a sewer digging contraption scoop up the eggs. The plates is then carried upward to a height of several hundred feet, where they is automatically released on greased skidways leading to the tables. They slide down by gravity to the tables.

**Cream is Sweet**

"The coffee system is unique and extensive. Boiled in huge vats, the coffee is piped to the eaters. Before reaching the tables the coffee pipes are joined by cream pipes which run from the dairy. The cows is fed on sugar cane, so the cream is sweetened by nature and they is no need of sugar bowls. The coffee pipes run along the center of the tables and is tapped by spigots three feet apart. The boys do the rest.

**Doesn't Last Long**

"When the whistle blows for breakfast the boys sit down. The chief cook pushes a button and the gigantic machinery starts operation. Breakfast is over in half an hour, everybody well fed and the machinery cleaned by a special steam apparatus."

"Sure was some eating house, Old Timer," I said.

"Yes, but it didn't last long. The men eats too much. The last day of its operation comes when the chief cook turns off the button when each man has ate only two bowls of oatmeal, one plate of eggs, two steaks and a quart of coffee apiece. And them boys is so sore they rises up from their seats and leaves the tables without their breakfast."

**"THE MYSTERY"**

Last night I had a dream so drear I awoke with a sudden start. And saw the Peterson-Barker well As the derrick drifted apart To let the casing go into the clouds, With a blast and a terrible roar. The rail birds came drifting by hundreds To the spots they had all used before, When they thought the well was a duster; Now their shrieks seemed to reach to the skies. While the black liquid gold shot into the air.

"Twas a heck of a dream when I opened my eyes. —ACKLEY.

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